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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Tomotoshi Sato

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EXAMINER

LIN, KELVIN Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2142

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/922,837

Applicant(s)

SATO, TOMOTOSHI

Examiner

Kelvin Lin

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11,13-28 and 30-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-11, 13-28, and 30-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks from page 9 to 13, filed on Oct. 20, 2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 3-11, 13-28, and 30-40 under 35 USC 103(a) as the combination of Levi in view of Naito have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Kiyohara et al., (USPN No. 5237693).

Response to Amended Claims

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-28, and 30-36, are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levi (U.S. Patent 6636983) in view of Kiyohara et al., (USPN No. 5237693).
2. Regarding claim 1, Levi teaches a peripheral device (Levi, col.30, l.2, peripheral

interconnect card corresponds to the peripheral device) configured to be connected to a plurality of peripheral devices via a network (Levi, col.28, l.65-67, col.29, l.1-4, fig.14) said peripheral device comprising:

- means for managing said plurality of peripheral devices (Levi, col. 2, l. 10-22). And

Levi discloses limitations on the connection of plurality of peripheral device via SNMP packet using peripheral interconnect card, but Levi fails to teach the means provided said peripheral device for selecting one peripheral device out of said peripheral devices to manage said peripheral devices.

However, Kiyohara teaches

- means provided in said peripheral device for selecting one peripheral device out of said plurality of peripheral devices including peripheral devices other than said peripheral device, to manage said peripheral devices, wherein said peripheral device is selected out of said plurality of peripheral devices to manage said plurality of peripheral devices (Kiyohara, col.3, l. 22-36, in which the starting node which including the peripheral device 14 issues a request for accessing (selecting) node excluded in its own node, The communication management on the starting node transmits the divided protocol to a communication management on a receiving node. The peripheral device management on the receiving node

serves to analyze the protocol , to execute accessing of peripheral device, to create a response protocol for management the peripheral device among another peripheral devices other than itself, therefore, the other peripheral device can manage the functions of device. Moreover, at col.11, l.55- col.12, l.15, through the peripheral device management portion 41, it serves to management the peripheral device 34, see fig. 7, and 8. and send the response protocol back to the management portion 40 from which it is given back to receiving of the peripheral device 33),

Because knowing that Kiyohara discloses the system for accessing a plurality of peripheral device connected with any one of node through the network and detecting a device whether or not the device to be accessed is located in the node, it would have been obvious to use the detecting capability device in the device of Levi's to detect whether the device has been stolen. Therefore, the claimed invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

3. Regarding claim 3, Levi further discloses the peripheral device of claim 1, further

comprising:

- a web server (Levi, col.30, l.61-65); and
- means for setting a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of said one peripheral device selected by said

means for selecting (Levi, col. 31, l.6-15).

4. Regarding claim 4, Levi further discloses the peripheral device of claim 3, further comprising:

- means for enabling said means for managing when said one peripheral device selected by said means for selecting is said peripheral device (Levi, Fig. 11, col.22, l.6-18).

5. Regarding claim 5, Levi further discloses the peripheral device of claim 3, further comprising:

- means for disabling said means for managing when said one peripheral device selected by said means for selecting is not said peripheral device (Levi, col.23, l.45-55).

6. Regarding claim 6, Levi further discloses the peripheral device of claim 3, further wherein said means for managing comprises:

- means for receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network (Levi, col. 22, l.46-54);
- means for requesting and receiving information from said plurality of peripheral devices (Levi, col. 23, l.2-5);
- means for setting configurations for said plurality of peripheral devices (Levi, col.12, l.61-66); and
- means for sending information to said user station (Levi, col.13, l.23-30).

7. Regarding claim 7, Levi further discloses the peripheral device of claim 3, further

comprising means for printing (Levi, col. 11, l.10).

8. Regarding claim 8, Levi further discloses the peripheral device of claim 3, wherein said means for selecting comprises means for comparing a characteristic for each of said plurality of peripheral devices (Levi, col.31, l.26-32).
9. Regarding claim 9, Levi further discloses the peripheral device of claim 1, further comprising:
 - means for checking if another peripheral device is managing said plurality of peripheral devices (Levi, col. 4, l. 8-34).
10. Regarding claim 10, Levi further discloses the peripheral device of claim 5, further comprising:
 - means for disabling said means for managing when said other peripheral device is managing said plurality of peripheral devices (Levi, col.23, l.45-55);
 - a web server (Levi, col. 30, l.57-67)); and
 - means for setting a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of said other peripheral device (Levi, col. 31, l. 4-22) .
11. Regarding claims 11, 13-20 have similar limitations as claims 1, 3-10. Therefore, claims 11, 13-20 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1, 3-10.
12. Regarding claim 21 has similar limitations as combination of claims 1, and 3.

Therefore, claim 21 is rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1, and 3.

13. Regarding claim 22, Levi further discloses the method of claim 21, further comprising the step of: disabling managing means of peripheral devices other than said one peripheral device (Levi, col. 23, l.45-55).
14. Regarding claim 23, Levi further discloses the method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing from said one peripheral device comprises the step of: receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network (Levi, col. 22, l.46-54).
15. Regarding claim 24, Levi further discloses the method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing from said one peripheral device comprises the step of: requesting and receiving information from said plurality of peripheral devices (Levi, col. 23, l.2-5).
16. Regarding claim 25 has similar limitations as combination of claim 6.
Therefore, claim 25 is rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 6.
17. Regarding claims 26-27 have similar limitations as claims 7-8. Therefore, claims 26-27 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 7-8.
18. Regarding claim 28 has similar limitations as combination of claim 1.
Therefore, claim 28 is rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1.

19. Regarding claim 30, Levi further discloses the computer program product of claim 28, further comprising: a second computer code device configured to check which peripheral device is managing said plurality of peripheral devices (Levi, Fig. 6A, col. 17, l. 37-50).
20. Regarding claim 31, Levi further discloses the computer program product of claim 30, further comprising: a third computer code device configured to enable said first computer code device (Levi, col. 15, l. 62-67).
21. Regarding claim 32, Levi further discloses the computer program product of claim 30, further comprising: a third computer code device configured to disable said first computer code device and to set a URL of a web server to correspond to a web server for said peripheral device managing said plurality of peripheral devices (Levi, col. 16, l. 1-37, col. 32, l. 8-10).
22. Regarding claim 33, Levi further discloses the computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises: a second computer code device configured to receive instructions from a user station connected to said network (Levi, col. 6, l. 14-15, col. 22, l. 45-54).
23. Regarding claim 34, Levi further discloses the computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises: a second computer code device configured to request and receive information from said plurality of peripheral devices (Levi, col. 23, l. 2-5).
24. Regarding claim 35, Levi further discloses the computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises: a second computer

code device configured to receive instructions from a user station connect to said network; a third computer code device configured to request and receive information from said plurality of peripheral devices; a fourth computer code device configured to set configurations for said plurality of peripheral devices; and a fifth computer code device configured to send information to said user station (Levi, col. 22, l.19-42).

25. Regarding claim 36, Levi further discloses the computer program product of claim 29, wherein said second computer code device comprises a third computer code device configured to compare a characteristic for each of said plurality of peripheral devices (Levi, col. 17, l. 14-36).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kelvin Lin whose telephone number is 571-272-3898. The examiner can normally be reached on Flexible 4/9/5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2142

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Caldwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" and last name "Caldwell" clearly distinguishable.

**ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**